

XLVI. *Description of a new Hemipterous Insect from the Atlantic Ocean.* By ROBERT TEMPLETON, Esq., R.A., &c.

[Read Sept. 7, 1835.]

HYDROMETRIDÆ, Leach.

GENUS GERRIS, Latr.

Subgenus HALOBATES, Eschscholtz, *Entomographien*.

Sp. *H. Streatfeldana*. Plate XXII. fig. A.

BROADLY ovate or lozenge-shaped, brilliant black; eyes, two minute spots near the prothorax, and the sides and apices of the first uncovered pair of abdominal annuli (4th and 5th) rufous; beneath brownish black, the first five abdominal rings yellowish with rufous apices, offering the appearance of five narrow transverse fasciæ; last rings broad and rufous black. Apterous.

Length 0·13 inch.

Found on the Atlantic Ocean in longitude 20° under the line.

This beautiful species was captured nearly midway between the continents of Africa and America by Col. Streatfield, 87th R. T. F., whose name I have in consequence done myself the favour to affix to it, as being most appropriate, and as a slight testimony of the grateful recollection I have of his kindness in presenting me with many interesting species of insects and other rarities. The sea was quite smooth, with a gentle swell, at the time the insect was caught; a number were seen swimming about among the *Porpitæ*, which formed the first object of attraction, and fortunately directed attention to the insect. The singularity of its distance from any land, and the possibility of its being driven off from the African coast by the south-eastern gales, gave full play to conjecture and excited our attention to the little creatures in the water, in the hope of ascertaining on what objects it preyed; but all possibility of discovering this was quickly put a period to by the S. E. trade sweeping over the surface and banishing all traces of the *Medusæ* and their companions.

This species obviously belongs to a section or subgenus distinct from that in which our linear European species are placed, and characterized by the contracted dimensions of the body, and the dilatation of the head and prothorax, and the shortness of the latter. When examined minutely we find the whole body covered with minute hairs, those on the legs predominating beneath, the upper curving downwards. The head is somewhat triangular with two cupped processes laterally within which lie the bases of the antennæ; two

small rufous maculæ are on the sides of the middle line closely adjoining the prothorax. The eyes are large, rufous, semiglobular, and occupy the space between the base of the head and the processes of the antennæ, emarginating the corselet laterally. The antennæ are about $\frac{3}{4}$ the entire length of the body; the 1st joint slender and curved outwards, the last thickest, attenuating towards the tip.

The prothorax is excessively short, collar-like, and gently channelled above into three subequal divisions, which nearly disappear in the dried specimen. The first pair of legs, arising closely to the mesothorax beneath, are moderately long, rather robust; the coxa short, obconic, and curved; the femur slightly *f*-shaped, with 4 or 5 strong black spines near its base exteriorly; tibia basally attenuated, arising with a curve from the preceding joint, and with 4 or 5 strong black spines inferiorly, apically giving origin to a strong obtuse process, which projects backwards and outwards from near the articulation. Tarsus with the two joints subequal, the last diminishing in diameter beyond its middle, after giving attachment to two strong claws and an anomalous horny process on the under side, and also furnished with two long curved spines arising from the back part on each side, and lying adpressed among the hairs.

The metathorax and mesothorax seem confounded together, presenting superiorly a hexagonal figure, a little longer than broad, the anterior side being carried a little forwards, so as to leave the lateral angles behind the centre. The posterior surface is transversely striate from being impressed upon the abdominal rings. The sides in the dried specimen become somewhat hoary from the light thrown back by the minute hairs. Beneath it is somewhat similar in form, but excavated behind, exposing in the sinus the abdominal rings. The sides posteriorly are rugose, with trochantines, from whence proceed directly backwards the coxæ of the last 4 legs, that of the posterior pair lying beneath the other on each side. The legs are slender, the middle pair exceeding the first, and the last pair the middle, by about one third. The last also has the apical half of the tibia, and 1st joint of the tarsus, with a row of long hairs beneath. Above the origins of the legs we find rudimentary processes, which, as the insect is apterous, must be looked upon as those of the undeveloped wing.

Fig. A. Represents the insect magnified.

A. 2. Right antenna.

A. 3. Sketch in profile of the body to show the origins of the legs.

A. 4. The right fore leg.

A. 5. The last tarsal joint, exhibiting the claws.